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Contact: Pamela Miller or Jean Gamache, Greenpeace Alaska, (907) 277-8234

**GREENPEACE RELEASES COMPREHENSIVE MAPS ON
TOXIC AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE SITES IN ALASKA**
Introduces "Preventing Toxics In Alaska:
Organizing for Environmentally Healthy Communities"

Anchorage, April 11 (GP) -- Greenpeace will present new findings concerning the serious problem of toxic waste sites from military, oil, gas, mining and other industrial activities in Alaska at a news conference at the Loussac Library in Anchorage on Friday April 11 at 11 AM. The information will be presented in a comprehensive set of geographic information (GIS) computer maps revealing the location of hundreds of sites that pose known or suspected exposure hazards to human including the full range of military sites, including the locations of chemical weapons and radioactive waste dumps; Superfund sites; and Toxics Release Inventory sites reporting under the community-right-to know law.

Today's news conference introduces the "Preventing Toxics In Alaska: Organizing for Environmentally Healthy Communities" conference beginning later today. Community leaders from all over Alaska including Gakona, Aleknagik, Savoonga, Chistochina, Ketchikan, Kwethluk and many other villages will join scientists, leaders of the environmental justice movement, and health professionals in finding solutions to the toxic problems in Alaska.

"Many of these toxic sites are in close proximity to Alaska Native communities where people are subsisting from the land and sea," said Jean Gamache of Greenpeace Alaska. "The military and other polluters have carelessly dumped on these communities without respect for the people who depend on subsistence for their survival. Not only have the polluters dumped on these communities, but they are not cleaning up the messes they are creating."

"The problem in Alaska is indicative of a larger problem of toxic dumping on Native land throughout the country." Winona LaDuke, Program Director for Seventh Generation Fund's Environment Program and Greenpeace Board member. "Polluters must be held accountable for the threats they pose to human health and the environment. In addition to the contaminated sites problem, people in the north are at risk from exposure to toxic pesticides and other persistent pollutants transported to and concentrating in the Arctic."

The Greenpeace conference includes over 30 speakers, including keynote speakers Winona LaDuke and Dr. Helen Caldicott, founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Other organizations represented at the conference include: Center for Health, Environment, and Justice; the Chemical Weapons Working Group; the Military Toxics Project; Asian-Pacific Environmental Network; Alaska Native Science Commission; Native American Fish and Wildlife Society; and the International Institute of Concern for Public Health.

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PO Box 104432, Anchorage, AK 99510-4432 • (907) 277-8234 • Fax (907) 272-6519
E-mail: greenpeace.alaska@green2.greenpeace.org

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Phone #	(907) 271-3422
Fax #	271-3424
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Dept./Agency	ELL-115
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Peg Lane
Secretary/Travel Coordinator/Timekeeper
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
222 West 7th Avenue, #19
Anchorage, AK 99513-7588

(907) 271-5084
Fax: (907) 271-3424

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